

# OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: MARCH 7, 2014

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER

RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR MARCH 7, 2014

## FRIDAY REPORT



1. Lennar Project – The Planning Division received the formal application for the redevelopment of the former Wickes Furniture site at 6725 York Ave. The plans call for the construction of 242 units of apartment and 12,000 square feet of retail. The Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled to review the plans April 9. The City Council would then review them April 22.
2. Renovation of 3939 W. 50th St. – 3939 West 50th Street is more commonly known as the “50th & France Building.” The building owner intends to renovate the exterior façade of the two-story concrete building in a manner more consistent with the surrounding architecture. A new synthetic brick and stone façade is proposed along all exposed walls and a traditional clock tower is proposed at the primary entrance. The clock tower would replace the original standing seam metal pyramid that currently marks the building entrance. The western face of the building (Breadsmith, Starbucks and Edina Liquor) is located exactly at the property line that abuts the public sidewalk. In order to proceed, the owner is requesting that the City approve an encroachment agreement. Such an agreement would allow the new façade to project approximately six inches over the property line. This overhang would occur primarily at the second-floor level and would not restrict movement along the public sidewalk. The owner would also require a temporary easement so that the construction crew can perform the work. Complete information is expected to be forwarded for Council consideration in April.
3. Southdale TIF Extension Bill – The bill has been drafted and introduced. In the House, it is HF 2727 carried by Rep. Ron Erhardt and Rep. Paul Rosenthal. In the Senate, it is SF 2341 carried by Sen. Melisa Franzen. There is no word yet on hearing dates, but expect that soon and with very little notice. The session is moving quickly.
4. Edinborough Park – The lighting retro-fit project is underway. Over the next three weeks, eighty lights will be converted from metal halide to LED. In addition, a total of 31 lights will be completely removed. This project will result in significant savings in energy cost, staff time and replacement bulbs. At this time, eight fixtures have been converted and there is already a noticeable difference. The majority of the work will take place the week of March 10 and the work will be complete by March 28.
5. Employee News – Carrie Domino will begin as the Payroll Specialist on March 24. Carrie is currently the Human Resources and Benefits Eligibility Coordinator for the ARAZ group. In that role, she is responsible for processing payroll and coordinating employee benefits, in addition to other finance and human resources functions. She has a bachelor’s degree in Human Resources Management from the University of Minnesota Duluth. Payroll will officially transition from Finance to Human Resources on March 24.

Casi McMayer will begin as the Benefits Specialist on April 7. Casi is currently employed by Orion Associates where she has served in a number of human resources roles. Casi has extensive experience in employee benefits as well other human resources functions. She has a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and from St. Olaf College.

Managers and supervisors throughout the City met on Thursday, March 6, for training related to a new hiring process for City staff that formally incorporates our values of Integrity, Quality and Service (IQS).

On Saturday, March 8 nine brave “plungers” from the Police Department, including Chief Dave Nelson, will plunge into a frozen lake in Eden Prairie as participants in this year’s Polar Plunge fundraiser for Special Olympics. Good luck to them!

6. Pentagon Park – At its Feb. 26 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended approval of preliminary rezoning to “Planned Unit Development” and an overall development plan for Pentagon Park. Anticipated uses include 1.4 million square feet of office space, 40,000 square feet of retail, a 400-room hotel, shared parking ramps, and the potential for multi-family housing. The City Council will consider this request at the March 18 meeting.
7. Grants – The Larry Nelson Adaptive Golf League and Lesson program recently received a \$2,900 from the Edina Rotary Foundation to purchase Starting New at Golf (SNAG) equipment. The Edina Parks & Recreation Department received a \$1,000 donation from FILMTEC (Dow) to purchase recycling containers and plants for the Edible Playground at Lewis Park.
8. France Avenue Corridor Improvement Project – The third meeting of the urban design group working on this summer’s France Avenue corridor improvement project is scheduled for 6 p.m. March 10 at the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility. Staff will gather input on the design components such as landscaping and lighting for consideration into the bid documents. After a final Hennepin County review, this project will go out for bids in April with an anticipated award in May.
9. Art Center – The 2014 Spring/Summer Activities Directory arrived in homes by USPS mail March 3. Of the 64-page catalog, the Edina Art Center comprises 32 pages, or 50 percent of the content. Summer camps for children and teens is a major portion of the summer catalog; in 2013, there were 72 children’s camps, and in 2014, there are 87 children’s camps – an 8.3 percent increase. The Art Center’s 2014 Work Plan goal was to have a 5 percent increase in summer camps.
10. Centennial Lakes – The Centennial Lakes ice rink will close for the season on Sunday, March 9, to prepare the Pavilion for special event rentals the following weekend. All benches, skate tile and supplies must be removed from the building and the floor cleaned and resurfaced -- all within 5 days. We will continue to groom the ice on the central pond as long as the weather allows. Skaters will need to use their own skates and use the outside benches as the building will not be available.
11. Golf Meeting – A team of staff from the Parks & Recreation and Finance departments will meet with representatives from the Save The Fred group today to discuss the financial pro forma and operating assumptions of their golf proposal. Staff will report the results of this meeting to the Council at the March 18 meeting.
12. Technology Savings -- The Communications & Technology Services Department has been working with a telecommunications auditing company. This vendor has assisted us in tracking down unused lines in various City buildings. So far, we have eliminated 22 lines/circuits as well as certain federal taxes, for a monthly savings of \$1,242.92 and yearly savings of almost \$15,000. Additionally, we will receive a credit for \$905 on taxes we have already paid.

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